



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

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July 12, 2006

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Kim Thorburn, Chair

SUBJECT: **WASHINGTON HEALTH FOUNDATION POLICY AND PLANNING**

**Summary**

At the December 2005 meeting of the State Board of Health, during a discussion of the Board's draft strategic plan, Board members expressed an interest in making sure the Board explored opportunities to coordinate its activities with those of the Washington Health Foundation. When the Board adopted its strategic plan in January 2006, the foundation was still finalizing its policy priorities for 2006 and was still in the relatively early stages of updating its own strategic plan. The Board agreed to invite the foundation to discuss its activities with the Board at a future date.

At the April Board meeting, the Board heard from a panel that explored the "medical home" concept. It also received copies of an article from *Thrive!*, a Washington Health Foundation publication, that discussed a related concept called "health home" that the foundation is promoting. Foundation staff members were not able to attend that meeting.

I have invited Don Sloma, policy director of the Washington Health Foundation, to discuss the foundation's policy initiatives and planning activities with the Board, including its efforts to promote health homes. Board materials include a discussion draft of the *2006 Report Card of Washington's Health*, a product of the foundation's Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign. Health homes are discussed on page 12.

I wanted to briefly note the strong ties between the foundation and the Board. Mr. Sloma was previously executive director of the Board, Board Member Mel Tonasket was recently appointed to the foundation's Board of Trustees, and by virtue of her office, Secretary of Health Mary Selecky is both a member of this Board and a foundation trustee. This Board is also a participating partner in the Healthiest State in the Nation Campaign.

**Recommended Board Action**

None.